

# Crossing the Finish Line, but Missing the Mark:

Growing Gap between Graduation & Proficiency in Michigan High Schools

## Graduation Rate Rising, ↑ Proficiency Rate Declining ↓

- Statewide graduation rate hit 84% in 2025
- English proficiency 55.4%, math proficiency 27.5%
- School-level patterns mirror statewide trends

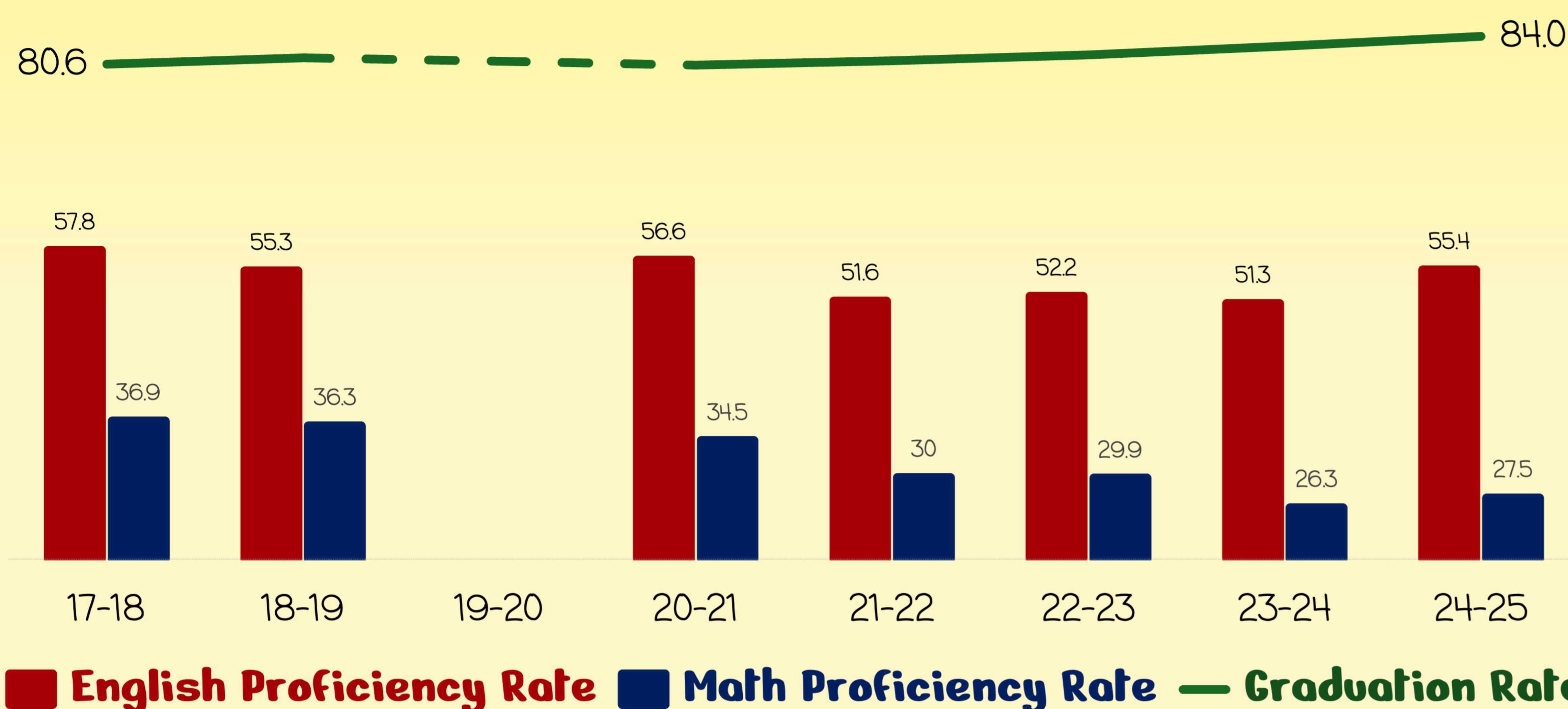
## Not a "Poor School Problem"

- No statistically significant relationship between share of economically disadvantaged students and math graduation-proficiency gap
- Suggests that the GPG is as prevalent in middle-and-upper class schools as low-income schools

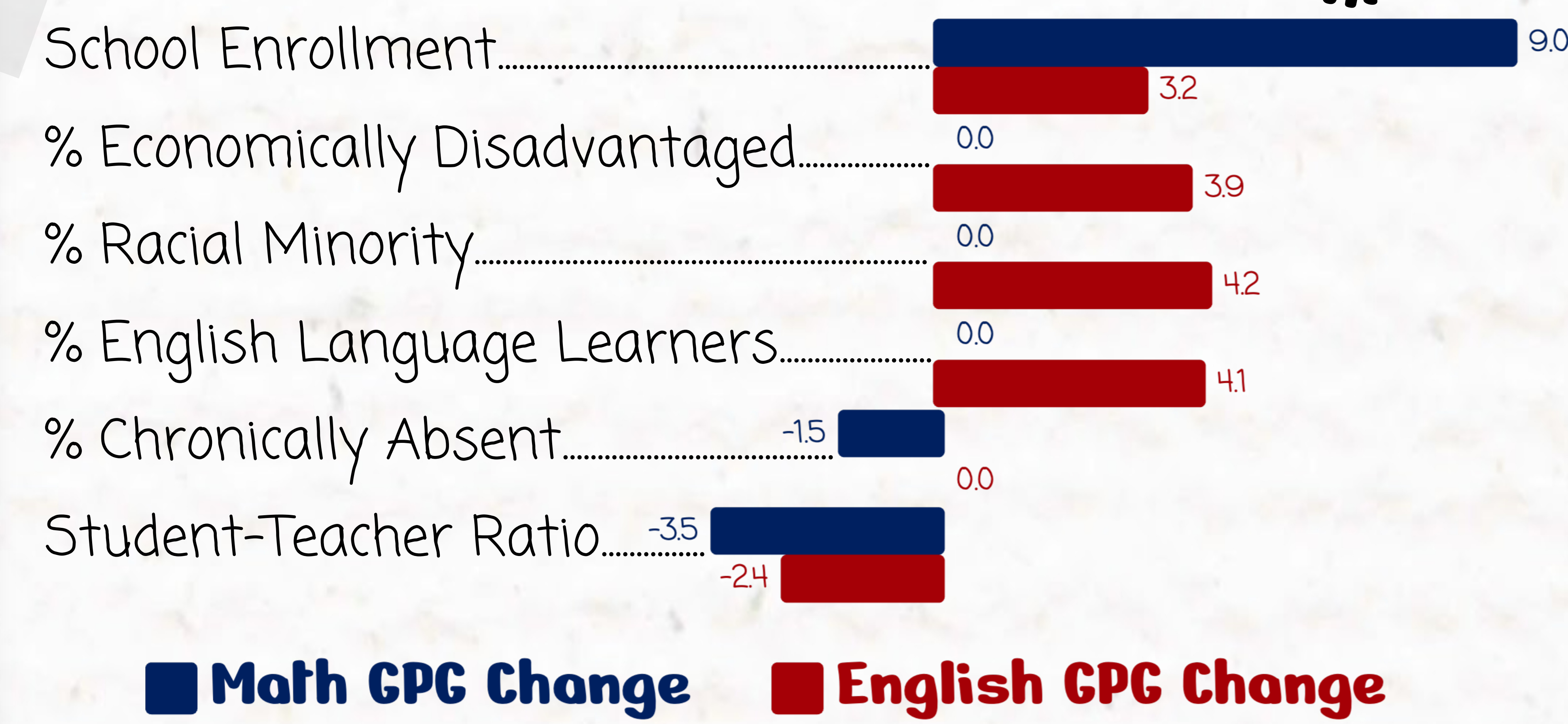
## Outcomes Are Not Necessarily Aligned ≠

- Factors associated with graduation are not always associated with proficiency
- Factors associated with math proficiency are not always associated with English proficiency

### More Students Graduate, Fewer are Proficient



### A Moderate Increase in: Is Associated with:



### Policy Action Needed

- Provide clear, statewide guidance on course content aligned with proficiency benchmarks
- Encourage district adoption of mastery-focused grading that reflects demonstrated proficiency
- Partner with educators to provide resources which meaningfully support instruction and learning